

a base and a projection extending vertically from said base, said projection having top and bottom portions and consisting of identical right and left halves, the top portion of each half comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances substantially parallel to, separate from and above said base, and optionally, two additional protrusions extending vertically from said base, said two protrusions spaced apart from said projection and being located on either side of said projection, wherein the base is not designed to be in contact with the support structure upon interconnection of flooring panels.

Cancel claim 50, without prejudice.

51. (once amended) The connector of claim 49 wherein the protrusions vertically extend a distance less than the projection.
52. (once amended) The connector of claim 49 wherein the connector is manufactured from metal.
53. (once amended) The connector of claim 49 wherein the connector is manufactured from plastic.
54. (once amended) A disengageable connector for vertically and horizontally interconnecting individual flooring panels with identical edges to form a permanent or temporary laminate flooring surface on top of a support structure, said connector comprising:
a base and a projection extending vertically from said base, said projection having top and bottom portions and consisting of identical right and left halves, the top portion of each half comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances substantially parallel to, separate from and above said base, and optionally, two

additional protrusions extending vertically from said base, said two protrusions spaced apart from said projection and being located on either side of said projection, wherein the right and left halves of the projection further comprise recesses therein.

55. (once amended) A disengageable connector for vertically and horizontally interconnecting individual flooring panels with identical edges to form a permanent or temporary laminate flooring surface on top of a support structure, said connector comprising:
a base and a projection extending vertically from said base, said projection having top and bottom portions and consisting of identical right and left halves, the top portion of each half comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances substantially parallel to, separate from and above said base, and optionally, two additional protrusions extending vertically from said base, said two protrusions spaced apart from said projection and being located on either side of said projection, wherein the base further comprises two recesses formed therein located between the protrusions and the projection.

56. (once amended) The connector of claim 55 wherein said connector is an elongated track.

57. (once amended) The connector of claim 55 wherein the projection extends substantially the entire length of the connector.

58. (once amended) The connector of claim 55 including protrusions wherein the protrusions extend substantially the entire length of the connector.

REMARKS

Claims 48-58 are pending in the application. Claims 48 and 50 are hereby cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution of the application. Claims 48-58 are rejected under 35